

Garbage Gazette

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

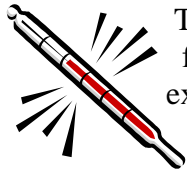
Volume 20, No. 7

October, 2001

Connecticut Surpasses Its' Mercury Reduction Goal

During a press conference celebrating Pollution Prevention Week on September 19, 2001, DEP Commissioner Arthur J. Rocque, Jr. announced Connecticut had exceeded the goal of removing 2001 pounds of mercury from home, schools and dental offices. The official tally as of September: 1170 pounds turned in by homeowners, 380 pounds removed from schools, 412 pounds from dental offices, and 58 pounds from thermometer exchanges.

“A year ago, the goal of removing 2001 pounds of mercury from the environment seemed an aggressive one, but with the concern and enthusiasm of everyone in Connecticut we surpassed our target of 2001 pounds in 2001”, said Commissioner Rocque. Household hazardous waste programs were particularly helpful in keeping track of how much mercury came in and promoting the thermometer exchanges.



The South Central Regional Water Authority received a Green Circle Award from the Commissioner for their work in promoting the thermometer exchanges. They conducted additional exchanges on their own and took in over 11,000 mercury thermometers. The Connecticut Dental Association was also recognized for their assistance in coordinating a program to collect mercury from dentists.

Recycled Products Purchasing Cooperative Offers 100% Recycled Content Paper

The Recycled Products Purchasing Cooperative (RPPC), a non-profit program dedicated to increasing the use of recycled paper nationwide, has added a new product: New Leaf Paper's Encore 100. Encore 100 is copy paper made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper and is processed chlorine free (pcf), meaning that the brighteners used in the papermaking process are not derived from chlorine. Many consider 100% post-consumer recycled pcf to be the most environmentally friendly paper because no trees are cut down, less energy is required to make this product, paper is effectively diverted from landfills and incinerators, and less air and water pollutants are released.



Besides Encore 100, the RPPC sells Willamette Industries 30% post-consumer recycled copy paper. The advantage of this product is that it is priced similarly to non-recycled paper, and usually below the recycled copy paper offered by the state contract. Also, many tests demonstrate that it performs as well as non-recycled paper. The RPPC purchases this product for several hundred organizations, enabling it to offer excellent prices.



WasteCap of Massachusetts is the New England affiliate of the RPPC. If you are interested in a price quote or a free sample ream of either 30% or 100% recycled paper, contact them at 800-694-8355.

Connecticut Recycles Day Prizes

Once again Connecticut businesses and national recycling trade organizations have generously donated an array of exciting prizes that will be awarded in a random drawing for Connecticut residents who make a pledge to increase their recycling. Everyone who makes a pledge is automatically entered into the drawing for both national and state prizes. Our local prizes are as follows:

Youth Prizes

(You must be under 18 to be eligible to win these prizes. With the exception of the week at Boy Scout Camp, the prize is awarded to the school of the winner. Winners who are not yet of school age or home-schooled must designate a school to receive the prize.)

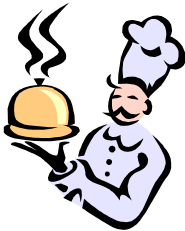


- Computer-** J.C. Penney Catalogue Fullfillment Center
- Lamp Recycling Services-** Northeast Lamp
- Teacher Scholarships to Project WET, WILD & PLT -** Northeast Utilities
- Recycled Plastic Bench-** O'Brien & Sons
- A week at Boy Scout Camp -** Boy Scouts of America, CT Rivers Council

Adult Prizes

(You must be 18 or older to be eligible to win one of these prizes. Only Connecticut residents are eligible to receive Connecticut prizes.)

- Midweek overnight stay for two and dinner at Foxwoods -** Mashantucket Pequots
- \$100 Restaurant Gift Certificate -** Mohegan Sun
- 2-piece Luggage set** (made from recycled plastic) - American Plastics Council
- Compost Bin and Rain Saver** (made from recycled plastic)- Signature Marketing
- \$50 Gift Certificate to the Smart Living Center -** Northeast Utilities
- Keg-A-Q Tabletop BBQ Grill -** Steel Recycling Institute



You can make a pledge by visiting the national website www.americarecyclesday.org , or call (860) 424-3365 to receive a pledge card. Even if you make a pledge on the web, you will still be entered into both drawings. Individuals making a pledge *will not* be put on a mailing list. To learn more about Connecticut Recycles Day programs visit www.dep.state.ct.us

Unit Pricing Workshops Continue

There will be an evening workshop on unit pricing, or pay-as-you-throw for local solid waste officials and town administrators on November 15, 2001 at the Windsor Town Hall on Broad Street from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is no fee, but pre-registration is necessary. Please contact Judy Belaval or Nan Peckham at (860) 424-3365 for more information.

The Department of Environmental Protection is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, providing programs and services in a fair and impartial manner. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, DEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities needing auxiliary aids and services, or for more information by voice or TYY/TDD call (860) 424-3000.



Meg Enkler, Waste Management Bureau/Recycling
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
<http://dep.state.ct.us>

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 4313
Hartford, CONN